

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. New claims 8 and 9 have been added.

Claims 1-5 and 8-9 are currently pending.

The Office Action mailed 17 September 2007 contains an objection to the abstract. The abstract has been amended to replace “comprising” with “having”, as required by the Examiner.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a). The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in light of the following.

The Office Action cites U.S. Patents No. 6,059,418 to Edwards and No. 5,499,169 to Chen in support of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features previously recited in claim 6, and claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled.

Edwards discloses a forward view mirror system which includes one or two forward viewing mirrors (8, 26). The purpose of the forward view mirror system of Edwards is to allow a driver to see around an obstruction located in front of the vehicle. The forward viewing mirror taught by Edwards requires its own mechanism for mounting the mirror to the vehicle.

Chen discloses a rearview mirror lamp circuit assembly having a front lamp (10) and a side lamp (20) mounted on the case (01) of the rearview mirror. The case of the rearview mirror is attached to the vehicle by a mounting support (02).

Claim 1 as amended recites a safety mirror attached to a vehicle which employs a backup light as an attachment mechanism for mounting the safety mirror to the vehicle. Edwards and Chen, either alone or taken in combination fail to disclose such a safety mirror. As noted above, the forward viewing mirror of Edwards requires a separate attachment mechanism. Similarly, the rearview mirror of Chen requires a mounting support. In contrast, the safety mirror of amended claim 1 does not require an additional attachment mechanism for mounting to the vehicle. Rather, amended claim 1 recites that “the attachment mechanism comprises the backup light,” thus avoiding the need for a separate support structure for mounting the mirror

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 and 8 which depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.


New claim 8 is further distinguished from the cited references by requiring that the vehicle is a "tractor trailer truck having a cab sized such that the driver can not see smaller vehicles located immediately adjacent a front portion of the cab." As noted above, the purpose of the mirror system of Edwards is to allow a driver to see around obstructions in front of the vehicle. One would not be motivated to employ the teachings of Edwards on a tractor trailer truck as recited in claim 8 since the cabs of such trucks are sized such that the driver can see over most obstacles in front of the truck.

New claim 9 recites a safety mirror for a tractor trailer truck "comprising a reflective surface attached to a front side of the backup light". The safety mirror of claim 9 thus also eliminates the need for a separate mechanism for mounting the reflective surface to the truck. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over the cited references for reasons analogous to those set out above with respect to claims 1 and 8.

The Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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